

and reliable, with business savvy, Patt has proven to be an incredibly effective businessperson. She gives every venture her all and is always ready to take on new challenges. Moreover, Patt sees every project through until completion, producing consistently impressive results.

Patt heads a team of four investment advisors at Capital Planning & Investments, Inc., her own successful, independent advisory firm. CPI offers a variety of financial solutions for businesses and individuals, including customized investment and insurance advice on an hourly and ongoing basis.

In addition, Patt is highly involved with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the CFCC Board of Directors and Small Business Committee, and through the CFCC, she has become treasurer of the city-wide Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee.

While in these positions, Patt has had numerous notable accomplishments. For example, she created a program in which CFCC breakfast seminars would pay for themselves. Through her table-top display program, Patt personally works with CFCC members to attract and schedule sponsors for the seminars. The popularity of Patt's program has enabled it to continue in the upcoming year.

Patt also was responsible for computerizing CFCC files for easy recording, implementing an aggressive budget and achieving Not-for-Profit status. These successes are indicative of her commitment, drive and character. Patt likes to make things happen and motivates others with her infectious spirit. When she sees needs, she addresses them, rallying others around her to turn visions into reality.

All things considered, Patt's special honor truly is well deserved. Over the years, she has made a lasting impact on the CFCC and greater Fairfax business community. She is an accomplished businessperson who successfully leads others through example. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Patricia Garman and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

EUROPEAN UNION'S UNITED
STAND AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the European Union for agreeing to toughen antidrug laws and urging actions to end drug tourism to the Continent.

After more than 2 years of negotiations, EU ministers reached a landmark agreement on November 27 to toughen antidrug laws and to harmonize the Continent's laws to make the bloc more efficient in the fight against illegal drugs. The laws cover all types of drug-dealing, ranging from local networks to large-scale international operations.

Under the agreed rules, offering, selling or producing drugs would be sanctioned with maximum jail terms of at least 1 to 3 years. In cases involving large-scale international drug trafficking, sanctions should be at least 5 to 10 years. Member states also agreed on a declaration stressing the importance of fighting drug tourism.

The EU's united stand against drug abuse strengthens global efforts to prevent drug abuse and to put away drug pushers and others, including terrorists, who financially benefit from destructive drug addiction.

It is disappointing that the EU agreement will allow the so-called "coffee shops" in the Netherlands, where marijuana can be legally abused, to remain open. I am, however, encouraged that the Netherlands is investigating possible approaches that would end U.S. drug tourism to Amsterdam.

Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner has stated that the Netherlands Government is considering rules under which "coffee shops" would only be allowed to sell drugs to Dutch residents as part of its obligation to dissuade tourists from going to Amsterdam for drugs. Under his proposal, only Dutch residents with identity cards would be allowed to use the cannabis cafes. This move would protect Americans visiting Amsterdam from the dangers of engaging in drug abuse. Currently, foreign tourists, including Americans, make up about 40 percent of the "coffee shop" sales in Amsterdam, according to the London Times.

I also hope that this agreement will further our international efforts to control the trafficking of ecstasy and other dangerous synthetic drugs. In recent years, traffickers have set up their illegal manufacturing operations in countries like the Netherlands in hopes of avoiding tough penalties if they are caught. This agreement should send a clear signal to the cartels that Europe and the U.S. will continue to work together to break up these international drug rings.

Furthermore, I am encouraged that the Netherlands has also agreed to increase its sanctions for the possession of small quantities of marijuana to a year from 1 month. These are important steps that I hope will eventually lead to stiffer penalties for all drug abuse.

It is increasingly clear that every nation must play a role in educating the public as to why drug abuse is harmful and in preventing drug addiction. As long as one country tolerates the production, sale or distribution of any illegal drugs, other nations, communities and families are vulnerable to the threats caused by drug abuse that is easily transported across borders.

The EU's commitment to not tolerate drug abuse and drug tourism protects not only the families and communities of Europe, but also families and communities here and elsewhere in the world.

Again, I applaud this agreement and look forward to working with these and other countries to further strengthen international drug laws and to protect children from the dangers of drug abuse and addiction.

HONORING COMMANDER WILLIAM
"BILL" ATKINSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander William Atkinson of the Merced County Sheriff's Department. Commander Atkinson has been with the department since July 6, 1976, when he began his

career as a correctional officer. He was responsible for the overall security of the Merced County Rehabilitation Center.

Commander Atkinson's work ethic was recognized, and he quickly moved up the chain of command. In 1979, he was promoted to the rank of corporal and was reassigned to the Merced County branch jail. After being assigned to the Merced County main jail in 1981, Commander Atkinson was responsible for supervising booking procedures and the health and welfare of the inmates. For 5 years, Commander Atkinson gathered statistics for a work furlough program and supervised a work-in-lieu pilot program, which required him to submit the policy and procedure to the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

Commander Atkinson continued to demonstrate his work ethic for the department and was assigned to the Main Jail Division as a facility manager in September 1995. He assumed all duties and responsibility for the division, as well as ensuring the facility was in compliance with the Board of Corrections guidelines, exceeding Health Department standards and State fire marshal inspections.

In 1999, Commander Atkinson was nominated by his peers for Officer of the Year. His years of hard work for the Merced County Sheriff's Department did not go unrecognized, and his peers selected him as their 1999 Officer of the Year. Soon after, he was promoted to sergeant and reassigned to the Sandy Mush Adult Correctional Facility as a shift supervisor, and then in May of 2001 he was promoted to senior sergeant. He displayed true dedication while supervising the Work Release/Classification Unit and was responsible for reviewing applications for eligibility for work release programs.

Finally, in November 2002, Commander Atkinson was promoted to his current rank and supervises the activities and employees of a correctional facility for the Merced County Sheriff's Department. As commander, he provides direction to subordinates and is responsible to take necessary action when alerted to emergencies or potentially dangerous situations.

Commander Atkinson will retire on January 23, 2004. I ask all of my colleagues to help me thank Commander Atkinson for his devotion and loyalty to the Merced County Sheriff's Department, the State of California, and our Nation. I am honored to call Bill my friend, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOE WATSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Watson on being the 2004 recipient of the Monterey Peninsula NAACP Branch's highest award, The President's Award. This award is being presented to Mr. Watson for his lengthy and outstanding service, dedication and contributions to the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Watson was born July 21, 1944, in Wilcox County, the town of Camden, Alabama during the height of Jim Crow segregation. The degradation that African Americans underwent during that period left an indelible imprint on Joe's life, resulting in a lifetime commitment for fighting for equal rights and social